

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

✓ 1. (AMENDED) An apparatus for forming bags comprising a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one tape (60) with an opening/closing function that is placed on the film (12), [wherein] the apparatus comprises at least one sensor (100) that detects the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to (means (30) for treating the film cyclically) in order to form bags.

✓ 2. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by a mechanical feeler.

✓ 3. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor (100) is placed after a set of transverse heat-sealed jaws (30) relative to the travel direction of the film (12).

✓ 4. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor (100) is secured to equipment carrying the transverse heat-sealing jaws (30) so that the sensor (100) is moved cyclically towards and away from the film (12).

✓ 5. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by a mechanical feeler having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical contactor (104).

✓ 6. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in 1, further comprising means (16) for shaping the film into a tubular state, means (18) suitable for filling the tubular

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bag blank formed (in this way, and means (30) suitable for closing the bag) on the packaged product.

✓ 7. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means (14) suitable for fixing the tape (60) onto the film (12).

✓ 8. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising a film (12) that is already fitted with the tape (60) having the opening/closing function.

✓ 9. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a means for causing the film (12) to travel vertically.

✓ 10. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for causing the film (12) to travel horizontally.

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✓ 11. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tape (60) has an opening/closing function comprises complementary closure strips, tear/cut tapes, adhesive tapes, or metal tapes for closing by folding.

✓ 12. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sensor (100) is located along a longitudinal edge of the bag remote from the edge via which the tape (60) is delivered.

✓ 13. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sensor (100) is adapted to detect the presence of a tape (60), to detect that the tape (60) has been fed properly in the direction that is transverse to the travel direction of the film (12),

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and to detect that the tape is properly positioned in the longitudinal direction of the film (12).

✓ 14. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein each sensor (100) comprises dual feelers (100a, 100b) that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film (12).

✓ 15. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tape (60) extends transversely to the travel direction of the film (12).

✓ 16. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tape (60) is disposed parallel to the travel direction of the film (12).

✓ 17. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tape (60) is disposed obliquely relative to the travel direction of the film (12).

✓ 18. (AMENDED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein two sensors (100) are disposed close to respective edges of the bag along a generator line that is oblique relative to the travel direction of the film (12) and that corresponds to the expected oblique position for the tape.

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✓ 19. (AMENDED) A method of forming packaging bags using a continuously traveling film fitted with at least one tape (60) having an opening/closing function placed on the film, wherein the method comprises detecting the presence of the tape (60) having the opening/closing function by means of at least one sensor (100) in a

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predetermined position relative to the means (30) for cyclically processing the film in order to form a bag.

✓ 20. (AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by a mechanical feeler placed on the longitudinal edge of the film remote from the edge via which the tape (60) is delivered.

Please add the following new claims:

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✓ 21. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor (100) detects the presence of the tape (60) in a predetermined position relative to ^{WAB} (the means (30) provided on the apparatus for closing the bag-constituting film transversely).

✓ 22. (NEW) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the complementary closure strips are male/female strips.

✓ 23. (NEW) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the complementary closure strips have complementary hooks.

✓ 24. (NEW) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the adhesive tapes are peel-off tapes.

✓ 25. (NEW) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one sensor (100) is in a predetermined position relative to ^{NAB} (means (30) provided on the forming apparatus to close the bag-forming film transversely).

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